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SUPPORT THE MARKEY CAFE AMENDMENT

May 9, 2006

Dear Energy & Commerce Committee Member:

Rising gas prices are taking their toll on American families. On behalf of our millions of members across the country, we urge you to increase fuel economy standards as a proven method to reducing America's oil consumption, providing lasting relief to consumers at the gas pump.

We urge you to support the Markey amendment to increase the fuel economy of America's vehicles to 33 miles per gallon by 2016 and oppose any final legislation that fails to include a specific numerical fuel economy increase.

The Markey amendment would help American families by saving money at the gas pump, curbing global warming, and cutting America's oil dependence. The technology exists today to safely increase the fuel economy of America's cars, trucks, and SUVs to 33 miles per gallon by 2016.

In its 2002 report, the National Academy of Sciences stated that increasing fuel economy to this level can be accomplished using existing technology without affecting safety. "Thus, it is technically feasible and potentially economical to improve fuel economy without reducing vehicle weight or size, and, therefore, without significantly affecting the safety of motor vehicle travel."[p. 70]

Benefits of the Markey amendment	2015	2020	2025
Reduction in Oil Demand (million barrels per day)	0.5	1.4	2.1
Reduction in Fuel Costs with gasoline at \$2.50 per gallon (billions per year)	\$ 19	\$ 55	\$ 79
Reduction in Global Warming Pollution (million metric tons per year)	85	244	350

Source: Union of Concerned Scientists

The Bush administration has asked Congress for the authority to restructure existing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for passenger cars by replacing the existing fleetwide standards with a size-based system. Unless size-based standards are accompanied by increased standards, the actual fuel economy of vehicles on the road may not improve. The Markey amendment provides the Bush administration with the authority it has requested from Congress while also increasing fuel economy standards to reduce U.S. oil consumption and save consumers money at the gas pump.

Sincerely,

Therese Langer
Transportation Program Director
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

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